

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE SITREP NO.11

REF: THESSALONIKI 0183

1. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS REMAINED IN THESSALONIKI FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY TO OVERSEE ENACTMENT SERIES OF MEASURES TO AID THE VICTIMS OF THE JUNE 20 EARTHQUAKE. THE CABINET MEETING HERE FRIDAY, JUNE 30, WAS ATTENDED BY MINISTERS OF COORDINATION, FINANCE, AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE, PUBLIC WORKS NORTHERN GREECE, LABOR, GOVERNOR BANK OF GREECE, AND HOST OF OTHER OFFICIALS TO ENACT SERIES OF RELIEF MEASURES. THESE INCLUDED SERIES OF LOW-INTEREST LOANS TO THOSE WHO HAVE LOST HOMES OR WHOSE HOMES HAVE BEEN DAMAGED, AS WELL AS LOANS TO BUSINESSES STRUCK BY EARTHQUAKE. ALSO, MEASURES TO COMMAND SPACE FOR THOSE IN NEED OF SHELTER OR SMALL INDUSTRIES WERE TAKEN. MERCHANTS WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO OBTAIN LOANS, AND INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES WHO WERE VICTIMS OF EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE WILL OBTAIN SPECIAL RELIEF ON INCOME TAXES, IKA PAYMENTS, AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS. IN AN OVER-ALL ASSESSMENT OF UNCLASSIFIED

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SITUATION, COORDINATION MINISTER MITSOTAKIS SAID THAT THE PRINCIPLE PROBLEM WAS A PSYCHOLOGICAL ONE AND THAT THE EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE DID NOT REPRESENT A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR THE OVER-ALL GREEK ECONOMY OR THE NATIONAL BUDGET. IN AN AIRPORT STATEMENT ON SUNDAY EVENING, JULY 2, BEFORE RETURNING TO ATHENS PRIME MINISTER, INTER ALIA, ATTACKED THOSE WHO

WOULD EXPLOIT THE SITUATION BY SPREADING RUMORS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE DISASTER. FEATURED PROMPTLY IN TODAY'S NEWS WAS THE ARRIVAL OF TWO MORE EXPERTS FROM THE USGS BRINGING TO FIVE THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN SEISMOLOGISTS NOW HERE. WITH THE AID OF A HELICOPTER THE TWO MOST RECENT ARRIVALS ARE INSTALLING 10 SMALL SEISMOGRAPHS NEAR THE EPICENTER IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION NOT PREVIOUSLY RECORDED ABOUT THE SERIES OF QUAKES THAT BEGAN ON MAY 8. THE AMERICAN EXPERTS AS YET HAVE REACHED NO FIRM CONCLUSIONS AND HAVE MADE NO COMMENTS TO THE PRESS.

2. MEANWHILE, THE TOWN IS STILL NOT BACK TO NORMAL AS CITIZENS DIVIDE THEIR TIME BETWEEN THEIR JOBS AND THEIR FAMILIES. THE OVERWHELMING NUMBER OF RESIDENTS STILL REFUSE TO RETURN TO THEIR DWELLINGS. A TREMOR REGISTERED AT 3.7 ON SUNDAY, JULY 2, HAS FURTHER INCREASED FEARS THAT STRONGER TREMORS ARE STILL TO COME. THE GOVERNMENT HAS MOBILIZED ALL CIVIL ENGINEERS. THE CONSULATE GENERAL WAS AGAIN INSPECTED ON JUNE 30 AND GIVEN A "GREEN" STICKER INDICATING THAT THE BUILDING WAS SAFE FOR USE.
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